CEO Update – MINTRACker June 2026

Welcome to this edition of the MINTRACker.

As we move into the second half of 2026, MINTRAC continues to work closely with industry, government and workforce stakeholders across a broad range of initiatives focused on workforce capability, skills development and industry sustainability.

A recurring theme across many of our recent engagements has been the increasing importance of practical workforce solutions. Whether discussing labour shortages, workforce participation, training quality, skills recognition or future capability needs, industry continues to reinforce the importance of collaborative approaches that connect workforce development with operational realities.

Strengthening Industry Partnerships

During May, I met with the new CEO of Seafood Industry Australia (SIA), John Ackerman, to discuss opportunities for closer collaboration across workforce development and skills initiatives.

The seafood sector continues to face significant challenges, including labour shortages, operating cost pressures, increasing competition from imports and broader public perceptions around sustainability. MINTRAC and SIA have committed to working together to identify opportunities that strengthen workforce capability and support future industry investment.

We look forward to welcoming SIA representatives to our Melbourne Industry Connect forum in August and engaging further at the SIA National Conference later this year.

Membership Delivering Practical Outcomes

It was also pleasing to welcome Wingham Beef as a new MINTRAC member. A great example of the value of industry collaboration emerged following our Brisbane Industry Connect event, where Wingham established a relationship with an RTO that has since helped progress solutions for their AMP training needs.

We also welcomed the expansion of Craig Mostyn Group's membership to include Linley Valley Pork, extending MINTRAC membership benefits across a broader section of their workforce and operations.

Recognising Existing Workforce Capability

MINTRAC recently worked with House of Carnivore in South Australia to support seven experienced workers through the Occupational Recognition Service (ORS) program.

The initiative provides an important pathway for experienced workers to have existing skills formally recognised and continues to demonstrate the value of practical workforce recognition across the meat processing, retail butchery and smallgoods sectors.

Supporting Workforce Development Through PALM

MINTRAC continues to contribute to the PALM Strategic Consultative Group, convened quarterly by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Our role provides both strategic and operational insights, informed by the Meat Industry Preparatory Training program currently being delivered in Timor-Leste. This work continues to support workforce readiness outcomes while helping address workforce needs across Australia's meat processing sector.

FlockSafe Webinar Highlights Industry Focus on Biosecurity

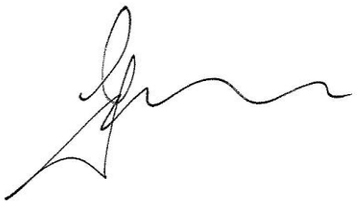
More than 100 industry stakeholders registered for MINTRAC's recent FlockSafe Poultry Biosecurity Management Planning webinar, delivered as part of our collaborative partnership with Skills Insight.

The strong level of participation reinforced the importance industry continues to place on biosecurity preparedness, with discussions highlighting practical challenges relating to wild bird management, rodent control, access controls and water sanitation practices.

Thank you to all members, stakeholders and industry partners who continue to support MINTRAC's work.

I look forward to continuing these conversations as we move towards **Melbourne Industry Connect in August.**

Regards,



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